



September 7-8, 2017
Christ the King Parish Hall, Accra

REPORT ON CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR NGO'S IMPLEMENTING TB ACTIVITIES



TB VOICE NETWORK

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SEPTEMBER, 2017

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BCC	Behavior Change Communications
CCM	Country Coordinating Mechanism
CHRAJ	Commissioner for Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CSO	Civil Society Organization
GAC	Ghana AIDS Commission
GF	Global Fund
IE&C	Information, Education & Communications
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NACP	National AIDS Control Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NMCP	National Malaria Control Programme
NTP	National Tuberculosis Control Programme
STBGH	Stop TB Ghana Partnership
TBVN	TB Voice Network

1.0 INTRODUCTION

As part of the 2nd Challenge Facility Round 7 Project, for NGO's and Civil Societies implementing TB activities, the TB voice network with support from Stop TB Partnership, Geneva and hosted by UNO Geneva put together a capacity building workshop in Accra.

The workshop saw about 60 participants benefiting from training in Advocacy, Treatment Monitoring, Leadership and Human Rights; Barriers to HIV-related Stigma reduction as well as sensitization on the TB patient charter.

DAY ONE

2.0 OPENING

The two day capacity building workshop opened on 7th September, 2017 at the Christ The King Parish Hall, Cantonments. The workshop is part of the 2nd Challenge Facility Round 7 Project for organizations implementing TB activities.

The workshop brought together 60 participants drawn mainly from NGOs implementing TB activities in Accra to be trained on advocacy, treatment monitoring, leadership and human right barriers to TB and HIV.

In his opening remarks, the Executive Secretary of the TB Voice Network, Mr. Jerry Amoah-Larbi said the training was necessary for the TB Voice Network in its bid to create awareness to the dangers of stigmatizing TB patients.

He was hopeful that the training will increase awareness of the TB patient Charter and also help improve the activities of the beneficiary NGOs.

“We are collaborating with Stop TB Partnership, collation of NGOs in health and NAP+ Ghana to come together to build capacity of civil societies in advocacy, treatment monitoring and evaluation and human rights barriers to HIV and

stigma. We expect that after this event, issues of stigma and discrimination of patients would reduce,” he said.

Mr. Larbi added that his outfit will partner with other institutions to form a committee to discuss and implement practicable ways to increase public awareness of the TB Patient Charter.

Presenting an update of the Country Coordinating Mechanism, (CCM) the Chairman of the CCM Mr. Collins Agyarko said within the period 2015 to 2017, the CCM was able to gather an amount of 250 million dollars for TB, Malaria and HIV programmes. According to him, 118 million dollars went into the national malaria control programme, 80 million dollars was allocated to the national aids control programme and 24 million dollars went into the National TB Control Programme.

Anglo Gold Ashanti, responsible for malaria indoor residual spraying in the Northern Region and the Ghana Aids Commission both had 13 million dollars and Adventist Relief Agency and Plan Parenthood Association of Ghana taking 1.5 million dollars each.

Mr. Agyarko further explained that the CCM is made of twenty-five members representing the following Constituencies - Academia, Civil Society, Faith-based Organizations, Private Sector, Multilateral and Bilateral agencies, Key Populations, Women Groups as well as Affected Communities.

He added that the twenty-five member Coordinating Mechanism was responsible for drawing proposals and mobilizing funds for various projects.

Mr. Agyarko said the Global Fund which was conceived by Mr. Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations has since 2002 raised close to

900 million Dollars which has benefited countries all over sub-Saharan Africa in the fight against TB, HIV and Malaria.

He concluded that monies which were not utilized are sent back to the Global Fund.

In response to a question from a participant as to the possible diversion of Global Fund resources, Mr. Agarko explained that the issue of diversion of funds cannot come up in anyway because a lot of documentation goes along with the allocation of funds hence it was therefore not possible for Global Fund funds to be diverted. Even if that should happen, it would be detected during auditing.

In response to another question as to why Ghana is not able to utilize monies budgeted for to carry out specific projects leading to monies being returned back to Global Fund, Mr. Agyarko retorted that most often, in the course of implementing a project implementing organizations are likely to come across a more efficient way of executing the project in terms of cost. When that happens, the excess is sent back to the Global Fund unless approval is given by the Global Fund for the funds to be reprogrammed for other activities.

3.0 PRESENTATION I: LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

The first presentation was given by Mr. Chief Austin Arinze Obiefuna, Developing Country Representative on the Global Stop TB Partnership.

He took participants through leadership and management training. In his presentation, Mr. Austin touched on the following key topics - Understanding leadership and Management; Comparative Analysis of a Leader and a Manager; Why leadership and Management in TB; The Patient's Charter as well as the TB Patient Charter.

Concluding his lecture on leadership and management, Chief Austin Arinze Obiefuna said it was time organisations in Africa close the yawning leadership gap. He stressed that though leadership and management go hand in hand, it is expedient that executives of institutions know the difference between being a leader and being a manager. According to him, it is when the clear distinction is made that institutions will see quantifiable results in their output.

4.0 PRESENTATION II: PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A project monitoring consultant, Mr. Michael Mensah took participants through effective project monitoring and evaluation. Mr. Mensah took participants through the following topics - Understanding what a Project is; Project Systems; Principles for Developing Monitoring Systems; Monitoring Tools; Evaluation; Differences between Monitoring and Evaluation; Stakeholders in Monitoring and Evaluation.

Discussion

Participants discussed among themselves the importance of evaluating an activity or project. They came to a consensus that projects are evaluated for managers to be able to determine whether or not they have been able to achieve their targets and if the negative is detected, procedures are modified for positive results.

Again, participants sort to find out if there was any difference between monitoring and evaluating. In response to this, it was concluded that while monitoring is a continuous activity, evaluation is specific and time bound.

Participants were also asked to choose what they taught was most important among the following; Funding, Implementing, Beneficiaries and NGO in order of importance. 10 participants said Beneficiaries of projects were the most

important, 6 said Funding was the most important. Some participants were however of the view that the issues were interdependent and interrelated and as such none could be considered more important than the other.

DAY 2

The second day of the workshop commenced with a recap of the activities of the first day.

Participants were made to state what they learnt for the first day of the workshop. Participants said the training on leadership and management enhanced their understanding of different dimensions involved with their work. They were positive about the first day of the workshop.

5.0 PRESENTATION III: STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

The first presentation for day 2 of the workshop was led by Mr. Cephas Ansah of the commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ). Participants were taken through mechanisms for dealing with stigma and discrimination issues through CHRAJ.

MR. Ansah began his presentations by asking participants to express their understanding of the mandate of CHRAJ and the institution's role. Several responses were obtained including - To protect the right of citizens especially cases related to abuses; Investigate human right abuses and serve as an intermediary between victims and offenders; An independent body that ensures that people conform with standardized human right regulations.

Explaining the mandate of CHRAJ, Mr. Ansah told participants that the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana guaranteed the Rights of Citizens. He further explained that Chapter 18 of the 1992 Constitution established the

Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) with a three-fold mandate of Human Right, Administrative Justice and Anti Corruption. He concluded that CHRAJ investigates cases of corruption as an independent body.

Q & A Session

During the Q & A session that followed Mr. Ansah's presentation, the following questions came up:

A participant questioned the public education function of CHRAJ with the argument that little is heard of the institution. To this, Mr. Ansah admitted that though CHRAJ needed to do more with respect to public awareness and education, a lot was being done by the organization.

A participant sort to know the role of CHRAJ is dealing with parents who force their children into early marriage? Mr. Ansah responded that CHRAJ could only educate the public and follow up on reported cases

For his part, Mr. Jerry Amoah-Larbi, Executive Secretary of the TB Voice Network said the cure for TB with its associated disability had become a global issue. He noted that the country lacked access to counseling services for TB clients in Ghana.

6.0 PRESENTATION IV: ADVOCACY

The presentation on advocacy opened with discussion on what advocacy is. Participants were asked to express their views on what they understood by advocacy. The following are some responses provided by participants –

- A process that results in change towards policy or behavior
- Making issues high for people to hear and change
- Ability to influence decision to bring about desired outcome.

The resource person, Madam Lucy Owusu-Darko however, defined advocacy as ‘a set of targeted actions directed at decision makers in support of a specific policy issue to bring about a change in policy, program or resource allocation’.

Participants were also taken through advocacy related concepts such as Information, Education and Communications (IE&C), Community Mobilization and Public Relations.

Madam Lucy Owusu-Darko explained that an **IEC** approach to advocacy is designed to disseminate information (usually targeting a subset of the population) in order to raise awareness, increase knowledge or encourage behavior change.

She however described the **Public relations** approach as activities used when an organization wants to improve its image or increase sales or donations. She noted that unlike other approaches, PR campaigns target consumers, donors, voters or other stakeholders instead of targeting decision makers.

Participants were given the opportunity to form teams to arrange a checklist for choosing an issue in order of importance. The list is as follows;

Will the issue:

- Be widely felt by many people?
- Have broad support?
- Be easily understood?
- Result in real improvement in people’s lives?
- Be achievable?
- Help build alliances with other groups?

- Have a clear timeframe
- Be consistent with the group's values?
- Respond to the community's expressed needs?
- Have data available to support the issue? What types of data?

Participants were given room to present their check list while giving room for questions and discussions.

The workshop was concluded with a brief discussion on TB screening tools and Introduction of the new TB Diagnosis Algorithm.

CONCLUSION

The workshop closed on Friday 8th September 2017 at 3:15 pm with a call on participants to implement what they have learnt in their daily activities and to help create awareness on the Ghana TB patient Charter.

Participants expressed their appreciation to the organizers of the training and promised to put into practice what they have learnt for the benefit of society. The workshop was put together with support from Stop TB Partnership, Geneva and hosted by UNO Geneva.

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JERRY AMOAH LARBI
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
TB VOICE NETWORK